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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Estimates Program for Latin America

1. This memorandum gives our views on the desirability of an early area estimate on Latin America, in the event that the issue should arise as a result of policy consideration of the area.

2. Our last area paper was done in late 1955, and while a sophisticated and useful analysis of basic trends, did not forecast the course of relations with, and sentiment toward, the US to the degree that might now be desired. Our feeling is that a successor paper would find it more difficult to generalize for the area, and might be forced to discuss individual situations in more detail in order to be helpful to policy makers.

3. In view of the problems of producing such a paper, we would not feel happy doing it on short notice. Our program now includes estimates on Argentina and Venezuela, ticketed for completion in July and August respectively, and we would prefer to proceed with these on a basis that will permit detailed examination of two



crucial and recently much-changed situations. Thereafter, we contemplate an area paper about the end of the year, possibly to become the first in a series of annual area papers that would at least wrap up our thinking once a year and provide some sort of benchmark for overall policy-makers. We would continue to do individual country papers as required.

4. We recognize, of course, that the NSC or other top levels may levy on you at any time for an early estimate. But we should like your approval to proceed on the above basis in the absence of such a request.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

WPB:bpc
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SHERMAN KENT
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